(d) No, Sir. The flood damages are repaired from the non-plan funds.

(e) Does not arise.

Transportation facilities in Northern States

3144. DR. A. R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to facilitate the transportation of goods from the landlocked Northern States to the major ports of the country, Government have laid down schemes to improve road connectivity to ten ports in the country;

(b) if so, the concrete steps considered in this regard;

(c) by what time these projects are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the original plan to complete these projects was December, 2003; and

(e) if so, to what extent it would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Government has planned to improve road connectivity to ten major ports in the country from the nearest National Highway.

(b) The port road connectivity projects are being undertaken through Special Purpose Vehicles in which the equity of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is restricted to be 30% of the estimated cost of the project. Detailed Project Report preparation has been done. Mobilisation of necessary funds has been finalised. Construction work has been awarded for four ports.

(c) The work on ongoing four port connectivity projects is likely to be completed by March, 2005. The award of work on other six port connectivity projects will depend upon suitable tie-up of funds for balance 70% funds to be arranged from sources other than NHAI. The contract period of civil work would be 30 months.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mumbai-Pune Expressway

3145. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested for the reimbursement of the Central Government's share of the cost of Mumbai-Pune Expressway since it is a part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) by when Government would make payment as reimbursement to the Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior concurrence of Central Government was not obtained for this project for the payment of Grant.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of tamper proof number plates

3146. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce tamper proof number plates for new vehicles as well as the existing ones;

(b) if so, whether the estimated cost to introduce the new tamper proof number plates has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) on what grounds the new system of number plates is being introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cost of High Security Registration Plates would be known only after the competitive process, through which the selection of the vendor/vendors is to be made by the States/Union Territories, is completed.

(d) The Technical Standing Committee on Central Motor Vehicles Rules had recommended the introduction of High Security Registration Plates having a number of security features which would make removal,